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~~Preparation of Extended Shelf-Life Biodegradable,
Biocompatible Microparticles Containing a Biologically
Active Agent~~

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Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A method for preparing biodegradable, biocompatible microparticles. A
first phase is prepared that includes a biodegradable, biocompatible polymeric
encapsulating binder, and an active agent having limited water solubility
dissolved or dispersed in a solvent. An aqueous second phase is prepared. The
10 first and second phases are combined to form an emulsion in which the first phase
is discontinuous and the second phase is continuous. The two phases are
separated. The discontinuous first phase is washed with water, or an aqueous
solution of water and a solvent for residual solvent in the first phase, to reduce the
level of residual solvent in the microparticles to less than about 2% by weight of
15 the microparticles. Also disclosed are a microencapsulated drug prepared by the
method for preparing biodegradable, biocompatible microparticles, and a
pharmaceutical composition that includes biodegradable and biocompatible
microparticles in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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